

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A design system comprising an editor configured to
2 display segments of code, the segments of code comprising an
3 active segment of code and an inactive segment of code, wherein
4 the editor is configured to display the active segment of code in a
5 first display format and the inactive segment of code in a second
6 display format different than the first display format.
- 1 2. The design system of claim 1, wherein the segments of
2 code further comprise a comment, wherein the editor is further
3 configured to display the comment and the inactive segments of
4 code with at least one same display format.
- 1 3. The design system of claim 2, wherein the at least one
2 same display format is a visibly different gray scale from the first
3 display format.
- 1 4. The design system of claim 3, wherein the inactive
2 segment of code has at least one different display format than the
3 comment.
- 1 5. The design system of claim 1, further comprising a pre-
2 processor directive, wherein the pre-processor directive defines
3 segments of code as active or inactive.
- 1 6. The design system of claim 5, wherein the editor is
2 configured to automatically switch the display format of one of the
3 segments of code from the first display format to the second display
4 format in response to a change to the pre-processor directive.

1 9. A method of displaying segments of source code in an
2 integrated development environment, comprising:
3 distinguishing inactive segments of the source code
4 from active segments of the source code; and
5 displaying the active segments of the source code in a
6 first display format and the inactive segments of the source code in
7 a second display format different than the first display format.

1 10. The method of claim 9, further comprising:
2 receiving a change to the source code which changes
3 one of the active segments of the source code to an inactive
4 segment of the source code; and
5 changing the display format of the one of the active
6 segments of the source code from the first display format to the
7 second display format.

1 11. The method of claim 9, wherein the step of
2 distinguishing includes applying a pre-processor directive to the
3 source code to determine the active and inactive segments.

1 12. The method of claim 11, wherein the first display
2 format includes a first color or font and the second display format
3 includes a second color or font.

1 13. The method of claim 9, further comprising displaying
2 comments and inactive code segments with at least one same
3 display format.

1 14. A design system, comprising:
2 means for distinguishing active segments of code from
3 inactive segments of code; and
4 means for displaying the active segments of code in a
5 first display format and for displaying inactive segments of code in a
6 second display format.

1 15. The design system of claim 14, wherein the means for
2 displaying displays comments and inactive code segments with at
3 least one same display format.

1 16. The design system of claim 14, wherein the first display
2 format and the second display format have visibly different gray
3 scales.

1 17. The design system of claim 16, wherein the second
2 display format has a lighter gray scale than the first display format.

1 18. The design system of claim 14, wherein the means for
2 distinguishing includes applying a pre-processor directive to
3 distinguish between active and inactive segments of code.

1 19. The design system of claim 14, further comprising
2 means for compiling the segments of code.

1 20. The design system of claim 19, wherein the means for
2 displaying automatically switches the display format of one of the
3 segments of code from the first display format to the second display
4 format in response to a change to a pre-processor directive.